

## Sound Barriers



The Maryland State Highway Administration Noise Policy provides for the evaluation of sound barriers for communities adversely impacted by noise from state highways.



Sound barriers are evaluated in two separate categories. The first category is for the construction of new highways or capacity additions to existing highways. The second category is for existing highways not being expanded.



Guidelines for Sound Barriers associated with new construction or expansion of a state highway.

- 1) Predicted future noise levels equal or exceed 66 decibels or exceed existing noise levels by 10 decibels or more.
- 2) A sound barrier can be constructed that would reduce noise levels by 7-10 decibels at the most severely affected residences.
- 3) The cost of the sound barrier does not exceed \$50,000/per residence benefited.
- 4) The majority of the impacted residences in the defined community must have existed prior to the date of approval of the proposed highway improvements.
- 5) Seventy-five percent of the residents that are impacted are in favor of a barrier.



Guidelines for Sound Barriers on existing highways.

- 1) The majority of the impacted residences must have existed prior to the construction of the original highway.
- 2) Measured noise levels equal or exceed 66 decibels.
- 3) A sound barrier can be constructed that would reduce noise levels by 7-10 decibels at the most severely affected residences.
- 4) The cost of the sound barrier does not exceed \$50,000/per residence benefited.
- 5) Seventy-five percent of the residents that are impacted are in favor of a barrier.
- 6) Sound barriers will be approved only in counties that have enacted local controls, consistent with state requirements, to address noise impacts for future noise sensitive development adjacent to state highways.
- 7) The local jurisdiction agrees to fund 20% of the project cost.
- 8) Right of Way that may be required for the construction or permanent location of a sound barrier is donated to the state.
- 9) Highway is a limited access facility, where access is limited to interchanges.

# Sound Barriers

